

Justice Dept. Files Are Said to Show Another Billy Carter Inconsistency

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WASHINGTON, July 31 — Members of Congress reviewing Justice Department files on the investigation of Billy Carter reported today another instance in which the President's brother had changed versions of reports on his activities involving Libya.

The latest instance concerns an indicted arms merchant and possible sale of weapons to the Libyan Government.

According to accounts of Justice Department files supplied to two Congressional Committees, one document says that Billy Carter told Justice Department

investigators in January that he had discussions about sales of machine guns to Libya with Frank E. Terpil, an international arms merchant indicted here and in New York on charges related to gun-running. He has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$100,000 bail. He could not be reached for comment today.

2d Document Is Contradictory

However, according to the accounts, another document quotes Mr. Carter as denying later that he had discussed any arms deal with Mr. Terpil or that he had told the investigators that he did.

Several of the more than 15 members of Congress who read the documents in a House office room today raised questions about Billy Carter's veracity and the way in which the Justice Department handled its investigation of Mr. Carter.

"There should have been a little more thorough investigation," Representative Harold L. Volkmer, Democrat of Mis-

souri, said after sifting through the four volumes of documents.

A senior Justice Department official said that Federal investigators did not pursue the possibility of a connection between Billy Carter and Mr. Terpil because "it seemed highly improbable that Billy Carter was in the arms business and there was some doubt about whether Billy had said that he had any conversation with Mr. Terpil about arms."

Two Documents in Question

There are two Justice Department documents citing Billy Carter's alleged contacts with Mr. Terpil. The first describes an interview with conducted in January by an F.B.I. agent and Joel S. Lisker, chief of the foreign agents registration unit of the Justice Department. According to an account of the document, Billy Carter told the officials that he had met Mr. Terpil when visiting Libya in 1979. After the trip, the memo states, Billy Carter said that Mr. Terpil had "contacted me in Americus about a machine gun deal." The memo also notes that Billy Carter told the investigators, "But nothing came of it."

In a memorandum dated March 20, according to Congressmen, Mr. Lisker wrote that Billy Carter had later denied having discussed any arms deal with Mr. Terpil. The Lisker memo states that Billy Carter had acknowledged that he might have autographed a picture of him and Mr. Terpil attending the ceremony in Libya, "to my friend Frank." However, Mr. Carter told Mr. Lisker that he had met "hundreds of people" in Libya, and was not a friend of Mr. Terpil's.

Kenneth Michael Robinson, a lawyer for Mr. Terpil, said that he did not know whether his client had met or talked to Billy Carter. But he criticized the department for releasing information about Mr. Terpil that might harm his chances of a fair trial.